

FINAL REPORT

19970412

**CONSERVATION LEARNING CENTRE - DIVERSIFIED
FARMING SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION**

March 2002

Funded by the Agri-Food Innovation Fund

Prepared by: Saskatchewan Conservation Learning Centre



Canada^{!+!}

Saskatchewan

AGRI-FOOD INNOVATION FUND PROJECT REPORT

102-04510/

PROJECT #: 97000412

PROJECT NAME: Conservation Learning Centre -- Diversified Farming Systems --
Research and Demonstration

TIME FRAME: July 1, 1998 - November 30, 2001

SUMMARY: The objective of this project was to increase technology transfer of sustainable and diversified farming practices and promote and extend knowledge of recent technologies that can be used by producers to farm in a more sustainable and competitive manner. This has been accomplished through ~100 activities: field days and tours, presence at trade shows, presentations at conferences and participation in workshops. Approximately 1,350 producers, researchers and industry representatives viewed about 150 projects at the CLC over the course of this project. In addition, almost 6,000 youth, teachers and parents participated in the CLC's education program.

TECHNICAL REPORT:

ACTIVITIES

Personnel representing the CLC participated in and/or hosted over 100 meetings, trade shows, conferences, workshops and field days.

1,350 producers, researchers and industry representatives attended field days and workshops.

5,472 students and youth (~250 groups), as well as 500 accompanying teachers and parents, participated in the school program.

Nominated three times for Outstanding Agriculture Ambassador Award

Listed as an agriculture resource for schools

Nominated for SSCA Conservation Award

Nominated for *Canadian Agri-Food Awards of Excellence* for "Environmental Stewardship" and "Agricultural Awareness and Education"

ACHIEVEMENTS, ARTICLES, MEDIA

Articles and media material:

Prairie Steward

Saskatchewan Human Services Directory

Saskatchewan Forage Council Newsletter

Advertisements and bulk mail-outs for field days and tours

Information compiled for inclusion on paridss.usask.ca website

Media interviews (radio, television and print)

Canadian Fertilizer Institute newsletter

Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Forage Crops

Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission

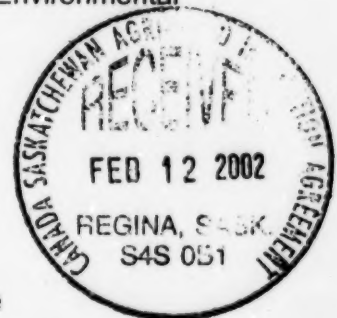
Saskatchewan Herb and Spice Association Newsletter

Canadian Fertilizer Institute Newsletter

Canola Digest

The Western Producer

Rural Roots



RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Through the course of this project, producers, researchers and industry representatives have had the opportunity to investigate and assess new advances in technology as demonstrated at the CLC. Many of the projects at the CLC are unique in that demonstrations are field-scale, thereby allowing producers to evaluate advances under conditions similar to those in their operations. They can assess soil and water conservation management practices such as direct seeding, establishing shelterbelts and maintaining the integrity of water bodies and the impact of these activities on soil quality and moisture, wildlife, sustainability and profitability.

INDICATIONS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The CLC remains a unique facility in that producers, industry, and provincial and federal research and extension departments have worked together to ensure that this tool was and continues to be relevant and beneficial to producers. Also, through these partnerships, the CLC has developed a very effective program to educate youth about agriculture, conservation, the environment and wildlife.

INFORMATION ON OUTPUTS AND MEASURES (PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY): As indicated in other sections.

INNOVATION FUND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Acknowledgement on sponsor board in farm yard
Verbal acknowledgement during presentations
Written acknowledgement in some articles
Acknowledgement on display booth

AGRI-FOOD INNOVATION FUND PROJECT REPORT

PROJECT #: 97000412

PROJECT NAME: Conservation Learning Centre -- Diversified Farming Systems --
Research and Demonstration

TIME FRAME: February 1, 2001 - November 30, 2001

SUMMARY: The objective of this project is to increase technology transfer of sustainable and diversified farming practices and promote and extend knowledge of recent technologies that can be used by producers to farm in a more sustainable and competitive manner. This has been accomplished through a number of activities: field days and tours, presence at trade shows, presentations at conferences and participation in workshops.

TECHNICAL REPORT:

OBJECTIVES

This project will increase technology transfer of sustainable and diversified farming practices and promote and extend knowledge of recent technologies that can be used by producers to farm in a more sustainable and competitive manner.

ACTIVITIES

Information Sharing:

- ◆ SSCA Annual Convention, February 2001
- ◆ ShowCase 2001 (Teachers' Convention), February 2001
- ◆ Soils and Crops 2001, February 2001
- ◆ Precision Farming Training, March 2001
- ◆ Farm Fair, Prince Albert, March 2001
- ◆ Weather Station Training, April 2001
- ◆ Western Canadian Farm Progress Show, June 2001
- ◆ Potash and Phosphate Institute International Executives Tour, June 2001
- ◆ Herb Growers' Field Day, July 2001
- ◆ NE and NW ADD Boards Tour
- ◆ Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food Insect and Diseases Tour, July 2001
- ◆ General CLC Tour, July 2001
- ◆ Crop Insurance Staff Training Workshops, May and September 2001
- ◆ CropLife Canada / SIA Workshop: Len Retter, Cancer Researcher, November 2001
- ◆ Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Forage Crops, November 2001
- ◆ Hub and Spoke Research Group Strategic Planning Meetings, November 2001
- ◆ Biotech Communicators Network Workshop, December 2001
- ◆ Chinese / Mongolian Agro-Forestry Delegation, December 2001
- ◆ Prince Albert Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon meetings

Education program: May - October 2001

- ◆ Hosted 94 classes from Grades 3 through 11
- ◆ Also hosted a Girl Guides troupe, Special Needs and Work Experience groups
- ◆ Hosted Grade 11 Outdoor School class which camped at the Centre for 3 days
- ◆ 2,147 students participated in 2001
- ◆ Listed as an agriculture resource for schools through Agriculture in the Classroom

ACHIEVEMENTS, ARTICLES, MEDIA

Achievements:

- ◆ Visitors: School: 2,147 students, together with accompanying parents and teachers
Adults: 200 producers, researchers and industry representatives
- ◆ Nominated for *Canadian Agri-Food Awards of Excellence* in "Agricultural Awareness and Education" and "Environmental Stewardship," September 2001
- ◆ Nominated for Outstanding Ag Ambassador Award through Agriculture in the Classroom (Saskatchewan), October 2001

Articles and media material:

- ◆ Prairie Steward
- ◆ Media interviews (radio, television and print)
- ◆ Canola Digest
- ◆ Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Forage Crops
- ◆ The Western Producer
- ◆ Rural Roots
- ◆ Prince Albert Tourism and Convention Bureau
- ◆ Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food *Farm & Food Report*
- ◆ Advertisements and bulk mail-outs for field days and tours

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The result of the past months' activities is increased producer, industry and school awareness of the Conservation Learning Centre and its programs, particularly those that focus on increased sustainability through implementation of recent technological advances. The producers' need for information about and the demonstration of these new technologies continues. The understanding by youth of agricultural, environmental and conservation issues continues to grow.

INDICATIONS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The CLC's current and future programs and activities will continue to help producers address some of their concerns with regards to the application of these technologies as well as educate the urban population.

INFORMATION ON OUTPUTS AND MEASURES (PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY): As indicated in other sections.

INNOVATION FUND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

- ◆ Acknowledgement on sponsor board in farm yard
- ◆ Verbal acknowledgement during presentations
- ◆ Acknowledgement on display booth

PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION MATERIALS:

As outlined under "Achievements, Articles, Media"